

52. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the at least one filling body is formed in the molding cavity by injecting raw elastomer material between the first and second annular inserts.

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53. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein each of the annular structures is interposed between the at least one first carcass ply and a second carcass ply superposed on the at least one first carcass ply.

54. (new) The method of claim 47, further comprising a rubberizing step in which one or more of the at least one first and second elongated elements are coated with at least one layer of raw elastomer material, wherein each coated elongated element is coated prior to depositing the coated elongated element.

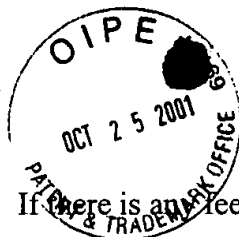
55. (new) The method of claim 48, further comprising a step of magnetically retaining at least one of the first and second annular inserts at a predetermined position within the molding cavity.--

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-20, and add new claims 27-55, which include the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the addition of new claims 27-55. No new matter was introduced.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 25, 2001

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